
ST ASAPH RURAL DISTRICT
COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

D. P. W. ROBERTS

MR. C. E. MACLEOD, DECOORDER

and

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

A. B. BARLOW, M.A.F.H.

(for year 1966-1970)

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R. P. BARLOW, M.A.P.H.I.

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G. DUDLEY JONES, M.A.P.H.I.

Clerks :

N. J. TAYLOR and Miss S. CRESSWELL

Offices of the Health Department :

Council Offices, St. Asaph. Telephone 3507

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH 1970

Madam Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report for the year 1970.

The population increased during the year by 290 and the standardised local death rate was 19.4 per 1,000 population, compared with the national rate of 16.

There was only one death of an infant under 1 year of age, giving a local infant mortality rate of 5 per 1,000 births, compared with the national average of 18. On the other hand, there were 16 still births, giving a local still birth rate of 30 per 1,000 births, compared with the national figure of 23, but this high figure may well be an isolated event and it will be wise to wait until 1971 before drawing hasty conclusions.

One hundred and thirty-seven deaths were recorded in the district in 1970, giving a standardised local death rate of 10 per 1,000 population, compared with the national figure of 11.9. Cancer accounted for 27 of these deaths of which cancer of the lung (5 deaths) was the commonest site, and 37 deaths were due to heart disease, but I must add that 29 of these 37 deaths were in people over 65 years of age. I suppose we all have to die of something, and it is possible that years ago some of these deaths would be attributed to senility. With all the advances in medicine in the past quarter of a century the expectation of life, especially of a man, is not increasing, and the mortality rate over 65 is still approximately the same as it was 30 years ago. In other words we have not solved the problems of the ageing of the body and the wearing out of the blood vessels. We have become a nation of car owners and many people take too little exercise and in a number of instances, eat and smoke far too much.

Our way of life must have a very big influence on how our bodies stand up to the strain of living.

Thirty-four cases of measles were notified to the health department and it is to be regretted that there are still a large number of children under 10 years who are susceptible to the disease and have not been protected. Immunisation is perfectly safe and consists of one injection and can be given by the child's family doctor or at the local infant welfare clinic.

Generally speaking the standard of health of school children is very good and it is very exceptional today to see any case of malnutrition, except of course, obesity, which in many ways can be considered mal-

nutrition. Obesity is a most difficult problem to deal with and often involves treating the whole family, including altering the parents' concept of a reasonable and balanced diet.

I hope that something tangible will be achieved in the near future and certainly before 1st April, 1974, in the commencement of work on the St. Asaph, Rhuddlan, Rhualt and Cwm sewerage schemes. The Council should continually press for these schemes to proceed with the utmost speed.

Slum clearance has virtually ceased but improvement grants are available to up-grade older dwellings to modern standards. It is up to the public to take advantage of these grants and up to the Council to exercise the maximum discretion whenever possible.

The Health department is concerned from time to time with the problems created by itinerant caravan dwellers, who stop for short periods in lay-bys in the district whilst on their travels through North Wales and Cheshire. Provision of a series of specially laid out sites with the full facilities of water supply and toilets and collection of litter may in fact be the answer, but I very much doubt whether this will completely solve the problem, especially if a charge is to be levied for the use of these special sites.

I should like to express my gratitude to the voluntary workers in the district for their excellent social work.

May I also thank the Chairman and Members of the Council, and my colleagues.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

D. P. W. ROBERTS,
Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Land area	22,300 acres
Population at mid-year 1970 (Registrar General's estimate)	11,490
Population change compared with previous year (increase)	290
Number of inhabited properties at the end of 1970	3,959
Rateable Value for the year ended March 1970	£406,324
Product of 1d. rate for the year ended March 1970	£1,582

SOCIAL CONDITIONS IN THE RURAL DISTRICT

The rural district is situated in the beautiful Vale of Clwyd, and until recently employment was largely agricultural, the land having a high fertility and being blessed by a good climate with comparatively low rainfall (average for the past ten years at Rhyl is 26.1 inches), mild winters with little fog.

During the past ten years new industries have been established, providing employment for over 1,300 men and women in glass production, clothing manufacture, printing and assembly of electrical equipment. Employment is also obtained in Deeside industrial plants, and in the summer season temporary work can be obtained for women in Rhyl.

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births	110 Male, 84 Female	194
Legitimate live births	107 Male, 77 Female	184
Illegitimate live births	3 Male, 7 Female	10
Illegitimate local rate per 1,000 live births		50
National illegitimate rate per 1,000 live births		80
Crude birth rate per 1,000 population		16.9
Birth rate comparability factor for district		1.15
Birth rate standardised		19.4
National birth rate per 1,000 population		16.0
Still births (total)		6
Legitimate still births		6
Illegitimate still births		—
National still birth rate per 1,000 live and still births		13
Local still birth rate per 1,000 live and still births		30
Infant deaths under age of 1 year		1
Legitimate infant deaths under age of 1 year		1
Illegitimate infant deaths under age of 1 year		—
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births		5
National infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births		18
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births		5
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births		—
Infant deaths under 4 weeks of age (Neo-natal)		1
Legitimate infant deaths under 4 weeks of age		1
Illegitimate infant deaths under 4 weeks of age		—

Neo-Natal Mortality rate per 1,000 live births (under 4 weeks of age)...	5
National Neo-Natal Mortality Rate	12
Total Peri-Natal deaths (still born and deaths under 1 week combined)	7
Peri-Natal Mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births	35
National Peri-Natal Mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births	23
Deaths in first week of life (early neo-natal period)	1
Early Neo-Natal Mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 live births)	5
National early Neo-Natal Mortality rate	11
Maternal Mortality including abortion:—	
Number of deaths	Nil
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	Nil

DEATHS

Deaths	61 Male, 76 Female	137
Crude death rate per 1,000 population		11.9
Comparability factor		0.84
Death rate standardised per 1,000 population		10
National death rate for England and Wales		11.7

RECENT POPULATION CHANGES IN THE DISTRICT

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Year	Mid-year population Registrar General's estimated figure	Population change during year	Change in population due to Births and Deaths during year	Change in population due to migration
1911	7,534	—	—	—
1931	7,873	—	—	—
1941	8,407	—	—	—
1951	10,640	—	—	—
1953	10,430	—260	+13	—273
1954	10,520	+90	+3	+87
1955	11,100	+580	—	+580
1956	10,500	—600	+62	—662
1957	11,020	+520	+44	+476
1958	10,680	—34	+12	—46
1959	10,320	—360	+16	—376
1960	9,860	—460	+36	—496
1961	9,830	—30	+25	—55
1962	9,300*	—530	+29	—559
1963	9,920	+620	+46	+574
1964	10,460	+540	+86	+454
1965	10,470	+10	+45	—35
1966	10,710	+240	+34	+206
1967	10,900	+190	+78	+112
1968	10,730	—170	+72	—242
1969	11,200	+470	+52	+418
1970	11,490	+290	+57	+233

A minus sign in column (4) indicates excess of deaths over births, and plus sign is vice-versa.

* Civilian population in 1962 estimated to be 9,225.

DEATHS FROM PRINCIPAL CAUSES

(Extracted from Chief M.O.'s Report)

Cancer

The deaths from cancer during the last eleven years are shown below:—

CANCER DEATHS	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970
Lung	5	6	2	1	2	4	3	7	4	11	5
Stomach	4	1	2	2	3	5	5	2	2	5	4
Breast	4	5	4	3	1	6	4	2	2	3	3
Uterus	—	2	—	—	1	3	2	1	2	1	2
Leukaemia	1	—	—	1	1	—	1	1	1	—	1
Other Sites	7	12	14	10	12	13	12	14	18	16	12
Total deaths all sites	21	26	22	17	20	31	27	27	29	36	27

Coronary Heart Disease

There are certain factors which can reduce the risks of developing the disease, these being to reduce smoking, taking more exercise, reducing the intake of sugar and starchy food, and if obese, of making a serious attempt to reduce weight.

The following chart shows the total annual deaths in the district of the past eleven years from coronary artery disease:—

	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970
Deaths	18	20	21	29	24	34	27	27	34	36	37

Infant deaths during first year of Life during 1970

One infant death recorded during the year: —

Age	Sex	Cause of Death
4 hours	F.	Anencephalus and prolapsed cord.

Six still births were recorded during the year, details of which are given below: —

Age	Sex	Cause of Death
36 weeks	M.	Anencephaly.
37 weeks	M.	Severe concealed accidental haemorrhage.
32 weeks	M.	Foetal abnormalities and anencephaly.
Unknown	M.	Intra uterine anoxia and anencephaly.
40 weeks	F.	Gross Hydrocephaly and associated Spina Bifida.
Unknown	F.	Unknown, but may have been due to uterine anoxia.

Screening procedures

During the past few years there have been projects for screening the general population in certain selected centres in the country, to ascertain whether mass screening procedure would be at all feasible and practical in the detection of disease and its treatment and possible prevention.

The diseases that come to mind in this context are namely:—

Cancer of the Cervix (the neck of the womb).

Diabetes.

High Blood Pressure.

Defects of Vision.

Hearing Defects.

Anaemia.

Urinary Infections in Young People.

Coronary Heart Disease.

More work needs to be done in the future before any large scale screening procedure can be set in motion, in particular, information on the levels of normality for the population.

It may be 10 years before mass screen procedure will be introduced and pending this, the only screening that is being undertaken, on a mass scale at present, is the detection of blood disease in new born babies, due to errors of metabolism, which if not treated can cause mental defects, and which now can be successfully treated.

OFFICE OF POPULATION CENSUSES AND SURVEYS

Numbers of deaths by cause, in sex and age groups—St. Asaph R.D., 1970

[illegible]

**TABLE SHOWING THE VITAL STATISTICS OF
THE DISTRICT IN RECENT YEARS**

Year	Registrar General's Estimate of population	Number of Local Births, Registrar General's Return	Local Crude Rate per 1,000 Population	Local Adjusted Birth Rate	National Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	Local Deaths, Registrar General's Return	Crude Death Rate per 1,000 Population	Adjusted Local Death Rate per 1,000 Population	National Death Rate per 1,000 Population	Infant Deaths under 1 year of age	Local Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births	National Infant Mortality Rate
1882*	14,321	321	22.4	—	—	269	18.7	—	—	45	140	—
1911	7,534	169	22.5	—	—	105	13.8	—	—	14	82.3	—
1924	7,356	119	16.1	—	18.8	92	12	—	12.2	5	42	75.0
1931	7,873	109	13.8	—	—	111	14.07	—	12.3	4	36.6	—
1941	8,407	125	14.8	—	—	138	16.4	—	12.9	12	104.3	66.0
1951	10,640	148	13.91	18.1	15.5	111	10.43	10.12	12.5	8	54.5	29.6
1955	11,100	115	10.3	12.8	15.0	115	10.3	9.4	11.7	1	34.9	24.9
1960	9,860	142	14.0	17.2	17.1	106	10.7	10.3	11.5	1	7.04	21.7
1961	9,830	156	15.86	17.13	17.4	131	13.3	11.7	12.0	6	39.0	21.4
1962	9,300	148	15.91	16.22	18.0	119	12.8	10.6	11.9	2	13.5	21.6
1963	9,920	172	17.3	19.9	18.2	126	12.7	11.5	12.2	3	17.4	21.1
1964	10,460	187	17.8	20.5	18.4	101	9.6	8.7	11.3	2	10.7	20.0
1965	10,470	182	17.4	20.0	18.0	137	13.1	11.8	11.5	5	27.4	19.0
1966	10,710	177	15.6	17.9	17.7	133	12.3	10.8	11.7	6	34	18.9
1967	10,900	190	17.4	20	17.2	112	10.3	9	11.2	2	11	18.3
1968	10,730	215	20	23	16.9	143	13.3	11.7	11.8	3	14	18
1969	11,200	206	18.4	21.2	16.3	134	13.8	11.9	11.9	4	19	18
1970	11,490	194	16.9	19.4	16.0	137	11.9	10.0	11.7	1	5	18

* During this period the Sanitary District included St. Asaph R.D.C., Aled R.D.C. Prestatyn U.D.C., part of Holywell R.D.C: (Gronant), part of Abergele U.D.C. and Denbigh Borough.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table shows the number of cases of infectious diseases notified in 1970:—

Disease	At all ages	Under 1 yr	inc. 1-2 yrs.	inc. 3-4 yrs.	inc. 5-9 yrs.	10-14+	15-20+	21-35+	36-65	over 65	Cases admitted to Hospital
Scarlet Fever	3	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	32	2	11	6	11	1	—	—	1	—	—
Ophthalmia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Neonatorum	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Infective Hepatitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tetanus	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Respiratory	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-respiratory	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Brucellosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(non-notifiable)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

No cases of poliomyelitis or diphtheria occurred in the district. One case of tuberculosis came to the notice of the department and close liaison is maintained between the health department and the county tuberculosis health visitors.

Thirty-two cases of measles were reported. Two cases of food poisoning were notified, and it was necessary to restrict the employment of one of these persons for a period whilst infectious, because of the nature of her work.

TUBERCULOSIS CASES

Age Period (Yrs.)	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary Male	Pulmonary Female	Non-Pulmonary Male	Non-Pulmonary Female	Pulmonary Male	Pulmonary Female	Non-Pulmonary Male	Non-Pulmonary Female
0-1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10-14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-19	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20-24	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25-34	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35-44	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-54	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55-64	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—

Tuberculosis

Every County District Authority maintains a tuberculosis register of all persons who are suffering from tuberculosis, and during the year the total list was revised in conjunction with the Chest Clinic and the County Council records.

The position at the end of the year was as follows:—

PULMONARY	—	Males	.....	10
		Females	.....	5
NON-PULMONARY	—	Males	.....	3
		Females	.....	1
		Total	.....	19

The following table shows the trend of the incidence of some of the common infectious diseases in the past 11 years.

Disease.	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970
Scarlet Fever	8	3	2	4	1	5	2	2	1	—	2
Whooping Cough	—	1	—	2	3	2	1	5	2	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	15	160	52	41	40	21	11	43	3	—	32
Pneumonia	4	2	5	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	3	—	1	—	—	3	—	1	—	1	—
Food Poisoning	—	25	2	1	7	3	—	—	2	5	2
Paratyphoid	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhoid	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
*Puerperal Pyrexia	11	5	2	23	20	—	—	4	—	—	—
Tuberculosis											
Respiratory	4	6	3	4	3	7	2	1	2	2	—
Tuberculosis											
Non-respiratory	—	1	2	—	2	1	—	3	—	—	1

*Not notifiable after 1968.

Chest Clinic

The treatment of cases of tuberculosis is under the care of the Consultant Chest Physician, Dr. Morrison, at Rhyl, and the Consultant Chest Physician at Llangwyfan Sanatorium.

Chest X-ray Facilities

The Welsh Regional Hospital Board had a mobile X-ray Unit based at Wrexham, which visited all parts of North Wales. This service was withdrawn at the end of 1967.

PROVISION OF SERVICES UNDER THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT, 1946

The following local services are the responsibility of the Flintshire County Council, and I am indebted to the County Medical Officer of Health, Dr. G. W. Roberts, for allowing me to give the following details :—

Section 22. Care of Mothers and Young Children.

Infant Welfare Centres.

Clinics are held at the following places :—

ST. ASAPH.—Pen y Bont, The Roe, on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month, at 2 p.m.

RHUDDLAN.—In front of the War Memorial Club, Rhuddlan, on 2nd and 4th Monday in each month, at 2 p.m. (Mobile Clinic).

DYSERTH.—In the grounds of the Urdd Hall on the 1st and 3rd Monday in each month, at 2 p.m. (Mobile Clinic).

BODELWYDDAN.—In the grounds of Kinmel Park Camp, on 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month, at 2 p.m.

Doctors and Health Visitors are present at these clinics to give advice on infant health, and vaccinate and immunise babies and young children.

Ante Natal Clinics

Ante natal clinics are held at Rhyl Clinic and St. Asaph Hospital, and are staffed by hospital personnel under the direction of the Consultant Obstetrician.

Instruction and advice is given to expectant mothers by the Health Visitors on childbirth and baby management.

Family Planning

Advice is available at a special clinic in Flint and Rhyl.

Cervical Smear Clinic

Facilities available by appointment at Mercier House Clinic, Rhyl. Tel. 4655.

Welfare Foods

Distribution of Welfare Foods (National Dried Milk, Cod Liver Oil, Vitamin A and D tablets and Orange Juice) is carried out in conjunction with the Women's Voluntary Service, Welfare Centres, Voluntary Committees and Village Shopkeepers.

The foods are available either at the infant welfare clinics or at special distribution centres.

Dental Care of Expectant Mothers

This is carried out by the school dental staff of the County Council and the service is free during the period of pregnancy and up to one year after the birth of the baby. It is regrettable that more mothers do not take advantage of this service.

Section 23. Midwifery Services

There are 3 midwives, who are also trained district nurses, employed in the district, who assist in ante-natal and post-natal care, and during the period of confinement of the mothers.

Section 24. Health Visitors.

The equivalent of three health visitors (2 full-time, 2 part-time, shared with other districts) are responsible for giving advice to families on all aspects of health education. Their duties have increased of late due to the ever-expanding needs of the community, especially the older members. Their duties are complementary to the work of the general practitioners.

Section 25. Home Nursing Service

This very valuable provision is carried out by the district nurses, who are usually midwives, and the demands of the service increase yearly, as the proportion of old people rises in the community.

Fifteen Home Helps are employed by the County Council, usually on a part-time basis, in the district. This is an extremely useful post-war development.

Section 26. Vaccination and Immunisation

Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus and Poliomyelitis

Immunisation, which consists of a course of three injections and oral doses of polio vaccine, is given to babies between the fourth and tenth month of life. A booster dose is given at primary school entry.

Measles

Immunisation consists of one injection at about the age of one year, after the completion of the course for diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus and poliomyelitis and there are very few adverse reactions.

Any child who has not had the disease naturally should be immunised.

Smallpox

Vaccination against smallpox is usually carried out in the second year of life.

Rubella (German Measles)

Immunisation is offered to 14 year old girls subject to parental consent in order to prevent possible harm to the unborn child should a pregnant woman contract the infection during pregnancy, especially during the early months.

All the preceding vaccinations can be given by the family doctor or at the local health authority clinic.

Tuberculosis

All thirteen year old children are eligible for immunisation against the disease after parental consent has been obtained. The procedure involves one simple, painless injection of live attenuated bacilli (B.C.G.).

Section 27. Ambulance

The Ambulance service is radio-controlled and administered from the headquarters at Mold. Local stations are situated at Rhyl and Holywell.

Section 28. Prevention of Illness, Care and After Care, and Loan of Equipment.

Arrangements can be made for the loan of certain equipment from County Council sources for handicapped persons.

Equipment can also be hired from British Red Cross Society at the local branch headquarters in St. Asaph. The local voluntary organisation is to be highly commended for its efforts.

Mental Health and Sub-normality

Visits are paid by mental welfare officers of the County Council to mentally ill patients who require advice and help.

Sub-normal children who cannot be educated in an ordinary school and who are not severely retarded (i.e. idiot category) are admitted to the Training Centre at Tirionfa, Rhuddlan, and in this centre they are trained to the limits of their capabilities.

School Health

Medical inspections of schoolchildren were carried out during the year by me as Assistant County Medical Officer, and it is pleasing to record the high standard of general health and fitness of the children.

Venereal Diseases

Treatment is available at the following clinics :—

H.M. Stanley Hospital, St. Asaph — Males and Females, 5.00 to 6.30 p.m. Tuesdays.

Wrexham and East Denbighshire War Memorial Hospital — Male, Mondays 5 to 7 pm. Females, Friday 5 to 7 p.m. Diagnostic (both sexes) Wednesday 4 to 6 p.m.

Chester Royal Infirmary — Males, Wednesday 5 to 7 p.m., Saturdays 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Females, Mondays 5 to 7 p.m.

The treatment is confidential and inclusive of travelling expenses.

Nursing Homes

The following nursing homes in the district are registered with the County Council and inspected periodically :—

Bryn Cwybr, Rhyl Road, Rhuddlan (10 beds).

Plas Coch, Rhyl Road, St. Asaph (20 beds).

Welfare Homes

Persons who are unable to look after themselves satisfactorily can be admitted to County Council homes, which are situated at Y Gorlan, Brighton Road, Rhyl; The Lawns, Rhyl; Women's Convalescent Home, Rhyl; Carr Holm, Prestatyn; Park House, Prestatyn; Hafan Glyd, Shotton; Plas Coed, Rhyl; and at Mold.

A new home has been opened at Prestatyn and another home is under construction at Holywell.

Section 47. National Assistance Act, 1948

This section conveys power to District Councils to remove persons who are aged, infirm, suffering from grave chronic diseases and are living in insanitary conditions and are unable to look after themselves and are not receiving adequate care and attention from others.

During 1970 no legal action was necessary, although two instances occurred where persuasion was sufficient to induce the individuals to be admitted to a Home.

Health Education and Food Hygiene

Lectures and films were given to nurses and kitchen staff of the H.M. Stanley Hospital, St. Asaph, by Mr. Lewis, County Health Inspector, and myself.

Public Health Laboratory Service

The local public health laboratory is at Conway, and Dr. Kingsley Smith, the Director, and his deputy, Dr. Griffiths, carried out the bacteriological examinations of specimens sent from the district. They have been most co-operative, and my gratitude is extended to them for their advice and help throughout the year.

Housing

The following number of houses were erected or in the course of construction in 1970:—

Parish	Council Houses completed	Private Houses completed	Total No. of Council Houses in Parish
Bodelwyddan ...	—	36	91
Bodfari	6	—	33
Cwm	—	—	22
Dyserth	—	16	164
Rhuddlan	—	27	245
St. Asaph	—	37	341
Tremeirchion ...	—	6	43
Waen	—	—	28
	6	122	968

The following table shows the number of applicants for Council houses and bungalows in the district at the end of 1970: —

Bodelwyddan	19
Bodfari	6
Cwm	1
Dyserth	22
Rhuddlan	38
St. Asaph	37
* Tremeirchion	5
Waen	—
	<hr/> 128 <hr/>

The majority of the serious cases of overcrowding have been rehoused, but the Council are continually faced with the problem of tenants being unable to meet rent commitments because of an inability to budget their finances satisfactorily, and often there is gross overspending on hire purchase commitments.

It is extremely distasteful to have to evict such families, especially where children are concerned, as they are the unfortunate victims of their parents' mismanagement.

Table showing the trend of Housing Development in District.

	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970
New Council Housing	21	47	50	26	51	57	32	7	—	—	6
New Private Housing ...	67	66	59	66	101	89	124	119	128	100	122
Total	88	113	109	92	152	146	156	126	128	100	128
No. of inhabited Properties	3,006	3,119	3,234	3,320	3,454	3,590	3,746	3,872	3,993	4,089	3,959
Population	9,860	9,830	9,300	9,920	10,460	10,470	10,710	10,850	11,100	11,200	11,490
Average No. of Persons per house ...	2.88	2.88	2.78	2.74	3.7	3.2	3.1	2.8	3.0	3.0	2.9

	1941	1951	1961	1971
Number of inhabited houses	2,236	2,581	3,119	3,959
Population	8,407	10,649	9,830	11,490
Average No. of persons per house ..	3.7	4.1	3.1	2.9

SLUM CLEARANCE

During 1970 the following representations were made:—

- 2 properties were the subject of closing orders.
- 1 property was subject to a demolition order.
- properties were the subject of an undertaking not to re-let.
- 1 demolition order was revoked and a closing order substituted.

Steady progress was made on dealing with property which was unfit, and could not be repaired at reasonable cost. Encouragement was given by means of granting improvement grants, both Standard and Discretionary, to owners to improve property in their possession.

Water Supply

The distribution of water within the Rural District is now controlled by the West Denbighshire and West Flintshire Water Board. The exception to this is a small area of Dyserth which is supplied by the Central Flintshire Water Board.

Eighty four bacteriological samples were taken from the mains supply at regular intervals. During 1970, 3 samples were found to be below "Class I" by Ministry of Health standard.

The three private well supplies within the District were also sampled during the year and 8 samples taken.

The following is the analyst's report on 2 chemical samples taken by the West Denbighshire and West Flintshire Water Board:—

Samples submitted June, 1970:—

Sample marked Trecastell Filter Station Analysis—

Appearance	clear & colourless
Odour	Nil
Reaction, pH	7.2
Colour (Hazen Units)	less than 5 parts per million
Total solids	333
Nitrogen as free and saline ammonia	0.00
Nitrogen as albuminoid ammonia	0.00
Nitrogen as nitrites	Nil
Nitrogen as nitrates	4.5
Chlorides, as Cl	28
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in 4 hours at 27° C	0.3
Total hardness	259
Temporary hardness	194
Permanent hardness	65
Alkalinity	194
Total residual chlorine	Nil
Free available chlorine	Nil
Potassium, as K	2.0
Anionic synthetic detergents	—
Manganese, as Mn	—
Cyanides and thiocyanates	—
Poisonous metals	Nil
Free carbon dioxide	26

**Sample marked Glascoed Filter Station
Analysis—**

Appearance	clear & colourless
Odour	Nil
Reaction, pH	7.0
Colour (Hazen Units)	less than 5
	parts per million
Total solids	136
Nitrogen as free and saline ammonia	0.00
Nitrogen as albuminoid ammonia	less than 0.01
Nitrogen as nitrites	Nil
Nitrogen as nitrates	1.0
Chlorides, as Cl	15
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in 4 hours at 27° C	2.0
Total hardness	58
Temporary hardness	44
Permanent hardness	14
Alkalinity	44
Total residual chlorine	less than 0.1
Free available chlorine	Nil
Potassium, as K	1.8
Anionic synthetic detergents	—
Manganese, as Mn	—
Cyanides and thiocyanates	—
Poisonous metals	Nil
Free carbon dioxide	11

From the aspect of the chemical analysis these results are indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes.

All properties within the Rural District are provided with an internal water supply. 3 farms are served by wells. These premises are in the Bodfari and Tremeirchion areas.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

The vast majority of dwellings except a proportion of farmhouses are connected to main drainage. Where main drainage facilities do not exist septic tanks are utilized, but there are still a few cesspools and there is a night soil collection once weekly from three properties.

DYSERTH—Adequate main drainage facilities.

CWM — Scheme under consideration and planning. Urgent need for the scheme to proceed.

RHUALLT—Scheme is now being prepared to convey the sewage from the properties in the village to the St. Asaph sewage works.

TREMEIRCHION—Adequate sewerage facilities.

BODFARI—Adequate sewerage facilities.

WAFN—Dwellings in the parish utilize individual or communal septic tanks.

ST. ASAPH — Scheme for enlarging the works — *still* at planning and preparation stage — urgent need for scheme to proceed. Existing works overloaded.

RHUDDLAN—Partial treatment only. Urgent need for full treatment and enlargement of disposal works.

BODELWYDDAN—Adequate sewerage facilities.

Slaughtering Facilities

Two slaughterhouses in the district and one knacker's yard were in operation during the year.

I am of the opinion that slaughtering should be concentrated in large centres where adequate buildings and equipment can be provided and 100% inspection of meat carried out. Meat inspection is now compulsory by virtue of the Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963, and this entails a considerable amount of extra duties, very often at weekends, for the Inspectors. I should like to see slaughtering concentrated in perhaps two or three centres for the whole of North Wales.

Caravan Sites

The modification and improvements are proceeding slowly on the local sites by the site owners in order to comply with the site licences granted by the Council under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960. Provision should be made for special sites for tents and adequate sanitary arrangements, etc., provided on the lines of the Caravans Act, 1960.

Infected Articles

The disinfection of infected articles, such as bedding, can be carried out through arrangements made by the Public Health Inspector with Rhyl U.D.C.

Superannuation

During the year 4 medical examinations were carried out on staff either for fitness to commence employment or because of absence from work through ill-health.

Inspections under Factories Act, 1937 to 1959.

The prescribed particulars of inspections carried out during the year are provided in the annexe to this report.

FOOD HYGIENE

The refrigerator has now become accepted as a standard part of the equipment of a kitchen, and listed below is a table showing how long various foods should be kept either in a refrigerator or a cool larder, before the quality and safety of the food is affected.

Food	Refrigerator 38°—42°F.	Cool Larder 45°—55°F.
Meat—		
Raw (Sausage Meat)	2—3 days	1—2 days
Cooked—Meat Pies, Cooked Sausages, Prepared Meals	2 days	1 day
Milk	3—4 days	2 days
Cream	3—4 days	1 day
Milk Puddings	2 days	1 day
Fish (Raw)	2—3 days	1 day
Baby Food (opened)	1 days	use immediately
Eggs (shell)	12 days	about 4 days
Stock, Soup, Gravy	2 days	use as soon as possible

Frozen foods can be kept in a frozen food compartment for up to one week if the temperature is at about 21°F., and up to 1 month if at 12°F., and up to 3 months if at 0°F. The temperature of the frozen food compartment should be checked with a thermometer, but most modern refrigerators have an asterisk on the door of the compartment. One asterisk indicates that food can be kept for up to one week, two asterisks implies safe storage for one month; and three asterisks indicate storage for 3 months.

De-frosting and Cooking of Chickens

- 1 Deep-frozen chickens should be thawed for about 8 hours on an average, at room temperature.
- 2 Average weight chickens should be roasted at 400°F. for 2 hours before the temperature of the oven is reduced.
- 3 Spit cooking of chickens requires 30 minutes' cooking per lb., which means about 2½ hours is needed for the average chicken at 400°F.
- 4 All birds must be cooled as rapidly as possible after cooking, preferably within 3 hours, to a temperature of about 40°F. and placed in a refrigerator.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS 1970

New food hygiene regulations were introduced in 1970 and the principle requirements of these regulations are as follows: —

- “1 The cleanliness of premises used for the purposes of food business and of the equipment used shall be of the highest order.
- 2 Any person handling open food must wear clean and washable over-clothing.
- 3 A person who engages in the handling of food shall
 - (a) keep as clean as may be reasonably practical all parts of his person and his clothing which are liable to come into contact with the food ;
 - (b) keep all open cuts or abrasions covered with a suitable water-proof dressing;
 - (c) refrain from spitting;
 - (d) refrain from the use of tobacco whilst working in food premises.
- 4 All food to be protected from risk of contamination and should not be placed on any forecourt or yard lower than 18in. from the ground unless adequately protected from risk of contamination.
- 5 If a person engaged in food handling becomes aware that he is suffering from or is a carrier of enteric, salmonella, bacillary dysentery or staphylococcal infections; he must directly, or through his employer, inform the local medical officer of health.
- 6 Persons engaged in the handling of food must not use wrapping material, including printed material, not specially designed for the purpose, or container, which is not clean or which is liable to contaminate the food, other than uncooked vegetables or unplucked game or poultry.
- 7 All food premises must have sufficient wash hand basins for the use of all persons engaged in the handling of food and each wash hand basin must have a supply of hot and cold water. where no open food is handled, of cold water; and every wash hand basin must have an adequate supply of soap and clean towels. There shall also be provided facilities for the washing of equipment used in the preparation of food.

- 8 All food rooms must have sufficient lighting and ventilation and no food room shall be used as a sleeping place. All food rooms shall be kept in a clean and good state of repair.
- 9 All food consisting of meat, fish gravy or imitation cream or prepared from or containing food consisting of these substances, or any egg or milk brought into a food premises, on or from which is carried on a catering business shall, if not already at a temperature of 145°F. (62.7°C.), or above on the one hand, or below 50°F. (10°C.) on the other hand, be brought to one or other of these temperatures without any avoidable delay after arrival."

—(Extract from Regulations).

PRE-COOKED FROZEN FOODS

The Department of Health & Social Security have recently issued a very useful guide on pre-cooked frozen foods. Listed below is an extract from the booklet.

- 1 Pre-cooked frozen foods are cooked foods that have been frozen rapidly by plate or blast freeze and are stored at minus 18°C. (0°F.) or below.
- 2 The following principles must be adhered to:—
 - (a) Food that has been issued for consumption and has thawed, either partially or completely, must not be allowed back to the freezers or to the deep freeze stores.
 - (b) Final heating must immediately follow removal from frozen or refrigerated food store.
 - (c) The food must be eaten as soon as possible after the final heating.
- 3 Pre-cooked frozen food should be stored at 0°F. and the shelf life is approximately 8 weeks.
- 4 Great care is required in the final heating to ensure that the food is not overheated, which can impair the nutritive value and palatability. Food that has been heated and subsequently allowed to cool should not be re-heated.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1970

TABLE 1

GENERAL STATISTICS

Drainage

Number of new drains to properties laid and tested	222
Number of choked and defective drains	250
Number of new water closets installed in the district	122
Number of privies converted to W.C.s	—

Scavenging

Number of pail closets emptied	104
Number of refuse bins emptied	160,322
Number of loads of refuse	1,752

Abatement of Nuisances

Number of Preliminary Notices served	3
Number of Preliminary Notices complied with	2
Number of Abatement Notices served	1
Number of Abatement Notices complied with	1
Number of prosecutions	Nil

Infectious Diseases

Number of notified cases	37
Number of enquiries into food poisoning cases	2
Number of premises disinfected	2

Slaughterhouses

Number of licensed slaughterhouses	2
Number of licensed slaughtermen	5
Number of knackers yards	1

Ice Cream

Number of premises registered for the manufacture of ice cream...	1
Number of premises registered for the sale of ice cream	72
Number of samples taken for bacteriological examination	Nil

Rodent Control

Number of farms inspected	17
Number of farms found to be infested	17
Number of dwellings inspected	102
Number of dwellings found to be infested	102

Food Hygiene

The number of premises coming within the scope of the Food Hygiene Regulations 1960, are as follows:—

Cafes and Licensed Restaurants	16
Licensed Premises	29
Greengrocers' and Greengrocers' Shops	38
Butchers' Shops	6
Bakehouses	6
*Sweets and Confectionery	14
Fishmongers' Shops	3
Fried Fish Shops	6
School Canteens	10

*Sweets are sold as a side line by many shops, these have been included in the figures above. ...

Applicants for permission in respect of plans of food premises are informed of the requirements of the Regulations in order that new or altered premises comply fully with the provisions thereof.

Improvement Grants, 1970

Number of Discretionary Grants approved	25
Discretionary Grant Aid approved	£30,750
Total Paid for Discretionary Grants	£8,196
Number of Standard Grants approved	4
Standard Grant Aid approved	£837
Total Paid for Standard Grants	£480

Factories and Workshops

Inquiries for factory sites continue to come in, but, at the moment, it has not been possible to satisfy the enquirers. Tentative agreement has been reached, with the County Planning Officer, to earmark a neighbouring Army Camp as an Industrial Estate, should it be vacated.

No legal proceedings were instituted in respect of factory premises in the district during the year.

TABLE 2

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned for the year 1970

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number inspected }					
Number killed }	2,113	41	63	34,073	498
All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci					
Whole carcases condemned	—	2	3	13	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	99	8	4	253	33
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis or Cysticerci	4.7%	19.5%	6.4%	.74%	6.6%
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	2
Cysticercosis					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	6	—	—	62	2
Carcases submitted for treatment by refrigeration	—	—	—	—	—
Total weight of meat condemned — 1 ton 13 cwt. 1 qtrs. 15 lbs.					

In accordance with the Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963, since 1st October, 1963, all carcases inspected at the private slaughterhouses in the district have been stamped, on being passed fit for human consumption.

The maximum charges are made for meat inspection, namely 2/6 per head for cattle, 9d. per head for a pig or calf, and 6d. per head for a sheep or lamb.

75% of all meat inspection has to be carried out outside normal office hours each day.

UN SOUND FOOD

Retailers in the district voluntarily surrender any unsound food in their possession for destruction after inspection by the Public Health Inspector. The following foodstuffs were condemned during the year:—

Canned Meats	12 lbs.
Cooked Meats	7 lbs.
Fish	—
Fruit	54 lbs.
Other foods	52 lbs.

Mobile Shops

It is thought there are probably 12 mobile shops (excluding ice cream vendors) operating within the district, some of whom are based within the area and some operating from without.

Several inspections have been made and improvements have been effected in the vehicles used.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955

Sampling of foodstuffs for chemical analysis is carried out in the Rural District by Mr. Elwyn Lewis, Flintshire County Health Inspector, who has kindly prepared the following report :—

Description of Article	No. taken	Genuine	Not Genuine
Milk	10	10	—
Dairy Products	4	4	—
Fruit and Vegetables	3	3	—
Sausages and Meat Products ...	5	5	—
Miscellaneous Products	12	12	—
	<hr/> 34	<hr/> 34	<hr/> —

No evidence of fungicides, pesticides or prohibited colouring matter was found.

Ten Samples of feeding stuffs and seven samples of fertilisers were taken under the Fertiliser and Feeding Stuffs Act. Two samples of feeding stuffs did not comply with their statutory standards and the attention of the manufacturer was drawn to the matter.

Three Samples of food stuffs were also submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination and all were found to be satisfactory.

All samples examined under the Pharmacy and Poisons Act and Trade Description Act were satisfactory.

RAIN GAUGE

Diameter of funnel — 5 inches.

Height of top above ground — 12 inches.

Height of ground above sea level — 195 feet.

Average rainfall for 10 years taken at Rhyl Meteorological Station is as follows:

1961 — 27.18 inches	1966 — 27.24 inches
1962 — 20.00 inches	1967 — 29.99 inches
1963 — 19.92 inches	1968 — 29.99 inches
1964 — 20.38 inches	1969 — 28.55 inches
1965 — 29.14 inches	1970 — 26.69 inches

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963.

Inspections continued during the year on newly-registered premises and other establishments were revisited to ensure continued compliance with the requirements of the Act. Infringements were mainly related to inadequate lighting intensities and the provision of the specified first-aid equipment.

Details of premises and inspections are listed below.

TABLE A
Registrations and General Inspections

Class of premises (1)	Number of premises newly registered during the year (2)	Total number of registered premises at end of year (3)	Number of registered premises re- ceiving one or more general inspections during the year (4)
Offices	—	25	2
Retail Shops	—	35	7
Wholesale shops, warehouses	—	4	2
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	1	15	5
Fuel storage depots	—	3	—
TOTALS	1	82	14

TABLE B

**Number of Visits of all kinds (including General Inspections)
to Registered Premises** 45

TABLE C

**Analysis by Workplace of Persons Employed in Registered Premises
at end of Year**

Class of Workplace (1)	Number of Persons employed (2)
Offices	116
Retail Shops	104
Wholesale departments, warehouses	10
Catering establishments open to the public ...	77
Canteens	—
Fuel storage depots	6
Total	313
Total Males	141
Total Females	172

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1961

PART I OF THE ACT

1. Inspections for the purpose of provisions as health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

PREMISES (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(1) Factories in which Section 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	5	1	Nil	Nil
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	53	12	1	Nil
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Auth- ority (excluding outworkers' premises)	10	2	Nil	Nil
TOTAL	68	15	1	Nil

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions, they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases."

PARTICULARS (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	To H.M. Inspector (4)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)—					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out- work)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	—	—	—	—	—

PART VIII OF THE ACT**Outwork (Sections 133 and 134)**

Only 3 outworkers were employed in the District; being engaged in the finishing of wearing apparel.

